

## Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme newsletter.

This edition aims to update you on the project, highlight some of the work that has been going on over recent months as well as answering some frequently asked questions.



*Images courtesy of David Lindsay Photography*

## Modelling update

In May we provided an update that, following a review of the hydrological model for Tadcaster, there would be a delay in delivery of the flood alleviation scheme whilst updates to the hydrological model were carried out. An accurate model representing the flood risk situation and hydrological conditions of the River Wharfe at Tadcaster provides the basis of information on which the scheme is to be designed on and helps to ensure the height of any proposed defences and volumes of any storage components of the solution are correct, ultimately ensuring that the level of

flood risk protection provided is known and understood.

The updates required to the hydrological model are now well underway and are expected to be completed in early 2022.

## Next Steps

Once the model has been updated, we will begin a process where various potential options for reducing flood risk are assessed, using the newly updated hydrological model. This process considers a wide range of criteria, including technical, environmental, economic and financial assessments, to arrive at a 'preferred option' for the scheme. During this process there will be opportunities for you, the community, to feed in your thoughts to ensure your views are considered. This activity is forecast to be completed by the end of 2022, after which activities such as the final design and planning permission are undertaken and the final business case submitted for approval to enable construction activities to start.

We will be seeking to undertake ground investigation work in the next few months and are currently identifying key locations in and around Tadcaster to complete this. These works will provide us with evidence of the composition of the ground where defences may be situated and enable us to design appropriate defences which will align with the existing ground composition. You may therefore see us out and about over the next few months whilst these activities are undertaken.



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@TadcasterFloodScheme



@EnvAgencyYNE



Environment Agency

## Community views

We continue to work hard to identify solutions that are environmentally and socially acceptable as well as being technically feasible and affordable. Each community that we work in has its own characteristics and complexities; there are often many factors to consider that influence or constrain the choice of solution/s. Tadcaster is no different. We need to ensure that the solution is right for the town's flood dynamics as well as being suitable for the local environment, whilst at the same time not increasing the risk of flooding in neighbouring communities and also being affordable.

As the project continues to progress there will be further opportunities for you to feed into the development of the flood alleviation scheme, either through formal engagement events or via one of the communication channels below. We will continue to keep you updated on progress on a regular basis. So please watch this space for news of up-and-coming engagement events.

## Engagement

We always aim to engage with local communities during the development of any scheme to ensure that we listen to and learn from their views. Where possible, we also look to include features in the design of our schemes that enhance the natural environment or provide other benefits, such as better access or improved facilities.

As covid-19 restrictions are easing, public engagement is becoming easier, and we are starting to return to a degree of normality while still obeying the government advice. As such quarterly meetings have been re-established with Tadcaster Community Client Group (TCCG)

The group was set up to provide representation of the town's residents, businesses, landowners and key stakeholders.

We are working together so that the town has its voice heard, feels listened to and responded to. The group will also help to

coordinate the dissemination and collation of information through their networks.

The Tadcaster Community Client Group (TCCG) is made up of members of

Tadcaster Town Council  
MP's Office  
Tadcaster Flood Action Group  
Tadcaster Flood Prevention Group  
Tadcaster Businesses  
Tadcaster Residents (East and West)  
Tadcaster Medical Centre  
Tadcaster Albion AFC  
Tadcaster Angling Association  
Tadcaster Historical Society  
Selby District Council  
North Yorkshire County Council  
Environment Agency



Comments and views received via TCCG plus direct correspondence with us has allowed us to produce the following FAQs which we hope you will find useful. Your views are important to us; please continue to liaise with TCCG as well as engaging with us directly via the contact details provided below.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What were the modelling inaccuracies?*

Topographical data is essential when developing an accurate model and includes information about the elevation of the local terrain and existing defences at Tadcaster. The topographical data used to inform the existing model we were using was found to be

inaccurate in a recent topographical survey that was undertaken in the local area. The existing model also inaccurately represented hydraulic conditions in certain parts of the channel. Hydraulic roughness determines the amount of frictional resistance flows encounter when passing over terrain, represented by a hydraulic roughness figure. This hydraulic roughness figure was incorrect; this is important as it can affect the expected extent of flooding. Accurate flood extents are crucial as they inform the height and position of potential defences. As such, the additional modelling work that is being undertaken uses more up to date software and technology that will eliminate or significantly reduce the inaccuracies and confirm the most appropriate topographical levels for our defences.

### ***Is funding at risk?***

There have been concerns raised about whether the delay to the scheme will affect funding. So far, we have been allocated:

- £1.7 million from Flood Defence Grant in Aid (GiA);
- £25k from North Yorkshire County Council;
- £1.022 million from the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP); and
- £9 million from the treasury.

We have engaged with stakeholders regarding the delay and have been informed that this funding is ring-fenced for the Tadcaster Flood Alleviation Scheme. Therefore, the original funding figures will continue to be relevant.

### ***Temporary defences***

Following discussion with the TCCG we decided that it would be worthwhile to investigate the potential for temporary defences within the town whilst a permanent scheme is developed.

The study concluded that temporary defences were not feasible at this time due to the little benefit they could provide and the time and cost it would take away from the permanent scheme. All time and resources will now be

invested into developing the most effective permanent flood defence scheme for the town.



## **Stay Informed**

Many of you will have seen and signed up to our Facebook page (@TadcasterFloodScheme) and also registered for updates via the e-newsletter (email: [tadcasterfas@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:tadcasterfas@environment-agency.gov.uk)).

You can also find more information on the scheme at Citizen Space [Tadcaster FAS](#)



This page is designed to provide easy access to information on what is happening in Tadcaster, including background information to the recent flooding, a summary of the project and progress updates, ensuring those without social media accounts can still gain access to online resources.

We also aim to continue to work with local groups to disseminate information via their networks including Tadcaster Town Council Community Newsletter for anyone without access to our online material.

## Stay prepared

**Remember that even homes and businesses which are protected by flood defences are still at risk of flooding.**

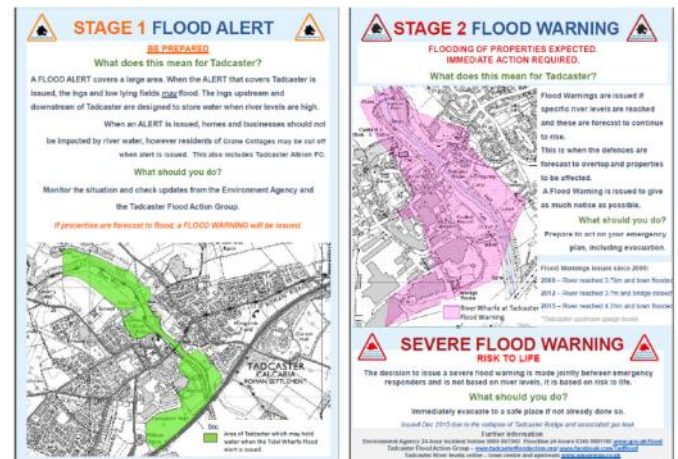
**Our free flood warning service provides up-to-date information about flood risk straight to your landline, mobile and/or email.**

Please continue to be prepared and resilient by signing up to receive advanced flood warnings. Register by calling **0345 988 1188**, or visiting [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](http://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)

If you are already registered to the Flood Warning Service, please check if your details need updating by visiting

[www.fws.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/login](http://www.fws.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/login)

Tadcaster Flood Action Group also provide an excellent local service in partnership with us. Please take the time, if you haven't already done so, to sign up for their system which is linked to our incident response. You can do this by visiting [www.tadcasterfloodaction.org](http://www.tadcasterfloodaction.org) or [www.facebook.com/Tadflood](https://www.facebook.com/Tadflood)



You can also download and keep a copy of our partnership guide to the meaning of flood alerts and warnings for Tadcaster by visiting [www.tadcasterfloodaction.org/what-we-do](http://www.tadcasterfloodaction.org/what-we-do)

**The Environment Agency is now offering flood warning services to several new locations in Yorkshire including Newton Kyme and Kirkby Wharfe. If you live in these locations please follow the links above to check your flood risk and sign up**

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